



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Media Contact: Press Office
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Hearing: “Creating a Nationwide, Integrated Biosurveillance Network”

WHO: Subcommittee on Prevention of Nuclear and Biological Attack
Chairman John Linder (R-GA)

WHEN: 2:00 pm, Thursday, May 11, 2006

WHERE: 1311 Longworth House Office Building

WITNESSES

Dr. Kimothy Smith

Chief Veterinarian, Acting Deputy Chief Medical Officer
Department of Homeland Security

Dr. John Vitko

Director, Director of Biological Countermeasures
Department of Homeland Security

Dr. Rich Besser

Director, Coordinating Office of Terrorism Preparedness and Emergency Response
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Ms. Ellen Embrey

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Force Health Protection and Readiness
Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs.

Dr. John Clifford

Deputy Administrator for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Veterinary
Services' program
Department of Agriculture

BACKGROUND

The Subcommittee on Prevention of Nuclear and Biological Attack will convene on Thursday, May 11, 2006 to hear from representatives of federal government agencies contributing to the creation of a new integrated biosurveillance network. The hearing will emphasize the progress made and challenges facing DHS in developing the National Biosurveillance Integration System (NBIS) – intended to be the single focal point for the analysis, integration, and dissemination of animal, plant, food, human health, water, environmental, and climate surveillance data.

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